

# Washington State Air Toxics Assessment and Diesel Emissions Studies

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# Diesel Technology

- **Powerful:** high compression ratio, i.e., 16 to 25: 1; (gasoline engines 8 to 12:1)
- **Durable:** large truck can log 1,000,000 miles (with overhaul)
- **Energy efficient:** Fuel contains more energy 147,000 BTU/gallon (gas: 125,000 BTU/gallon)
- **Heavy-duty diesel engines emit 30–100 times as many particles as do gasoline engines.**

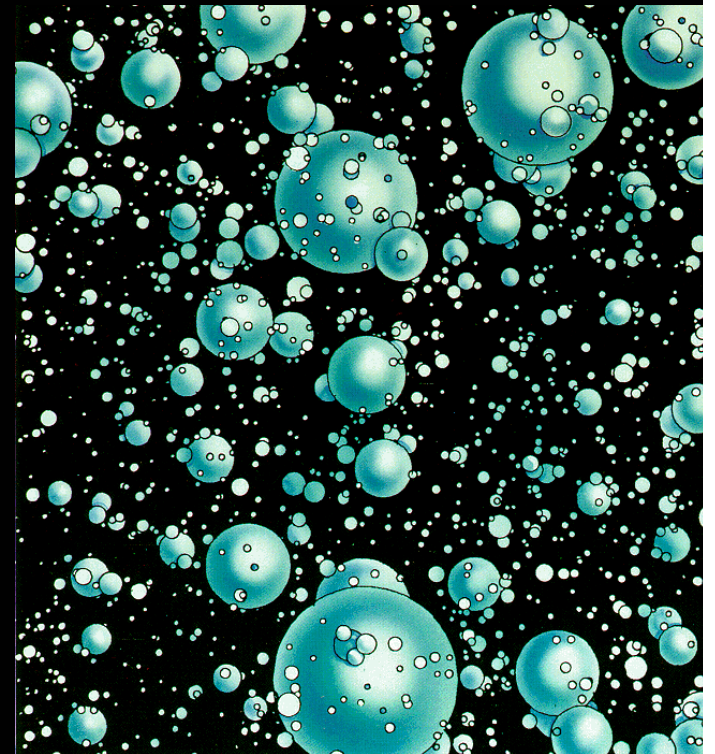
# Major Constituents of Diesel Emissions

## Gas or Vapor

- $\text{CO}_2$
- $\text{CO}$
- $\text{NO}$ ,  $\text{NO}_x$
- $\text{SO}_x$

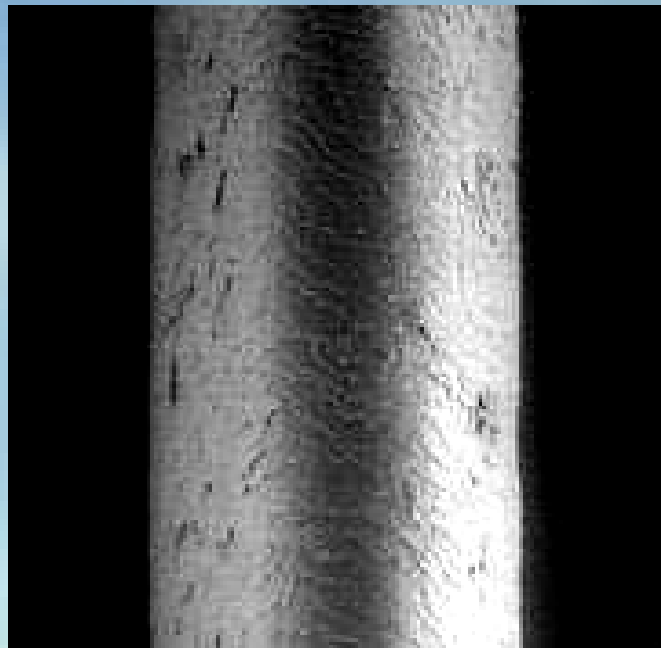
Hydrocarbons: benzene,  
1,3-butadiene, acrolein,  
PAHs and nitroPAHs  
phenol, ethylene,  
methane, etc.

**Particles: porous core of carbon (soot)  
with up to 18,000 combustion products  
adsorbed**



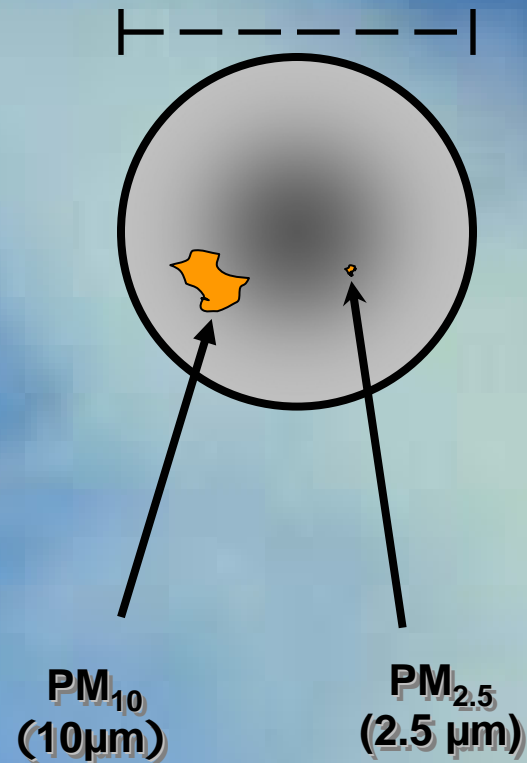
# Smoke

A mixture of extremely small solids and liquid droplets



Human Hair (70  $\mu\text{m}$   
diameter)

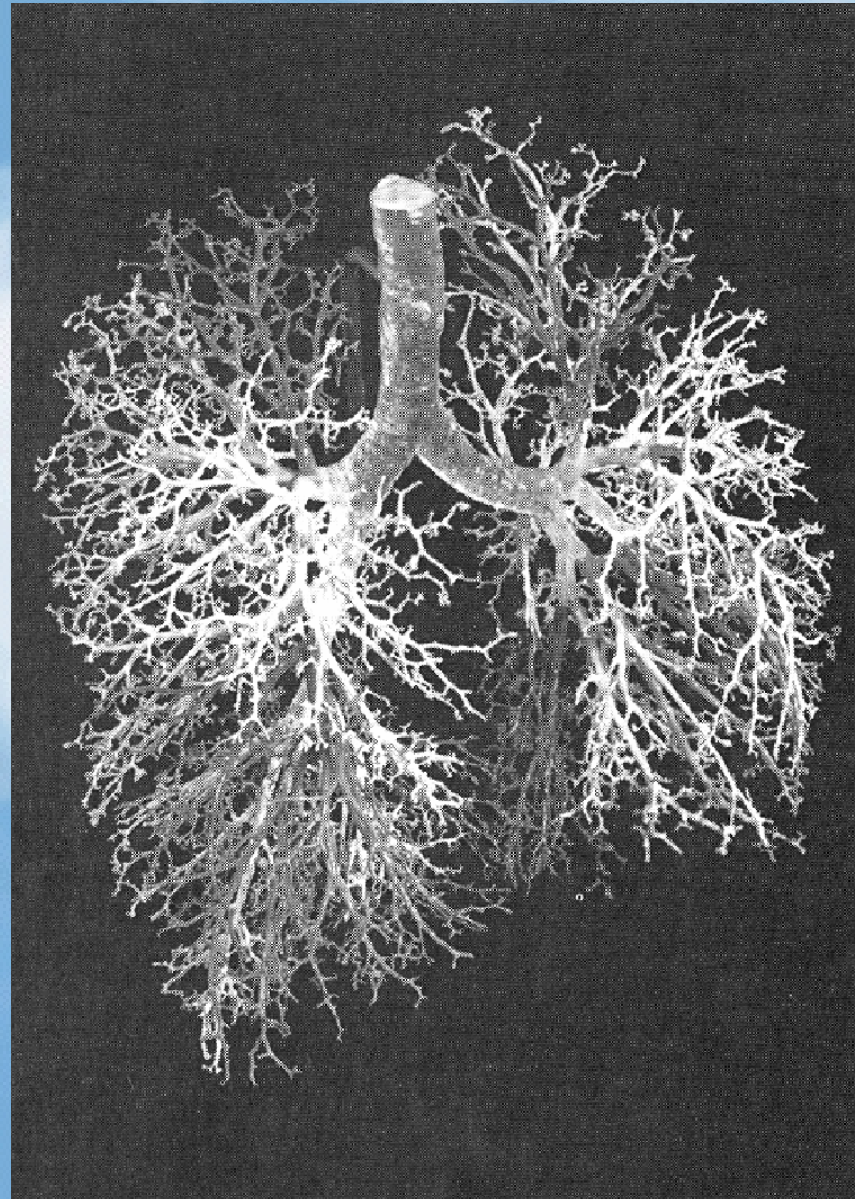
Hair cross section (70  $\mu\text{m}$ )



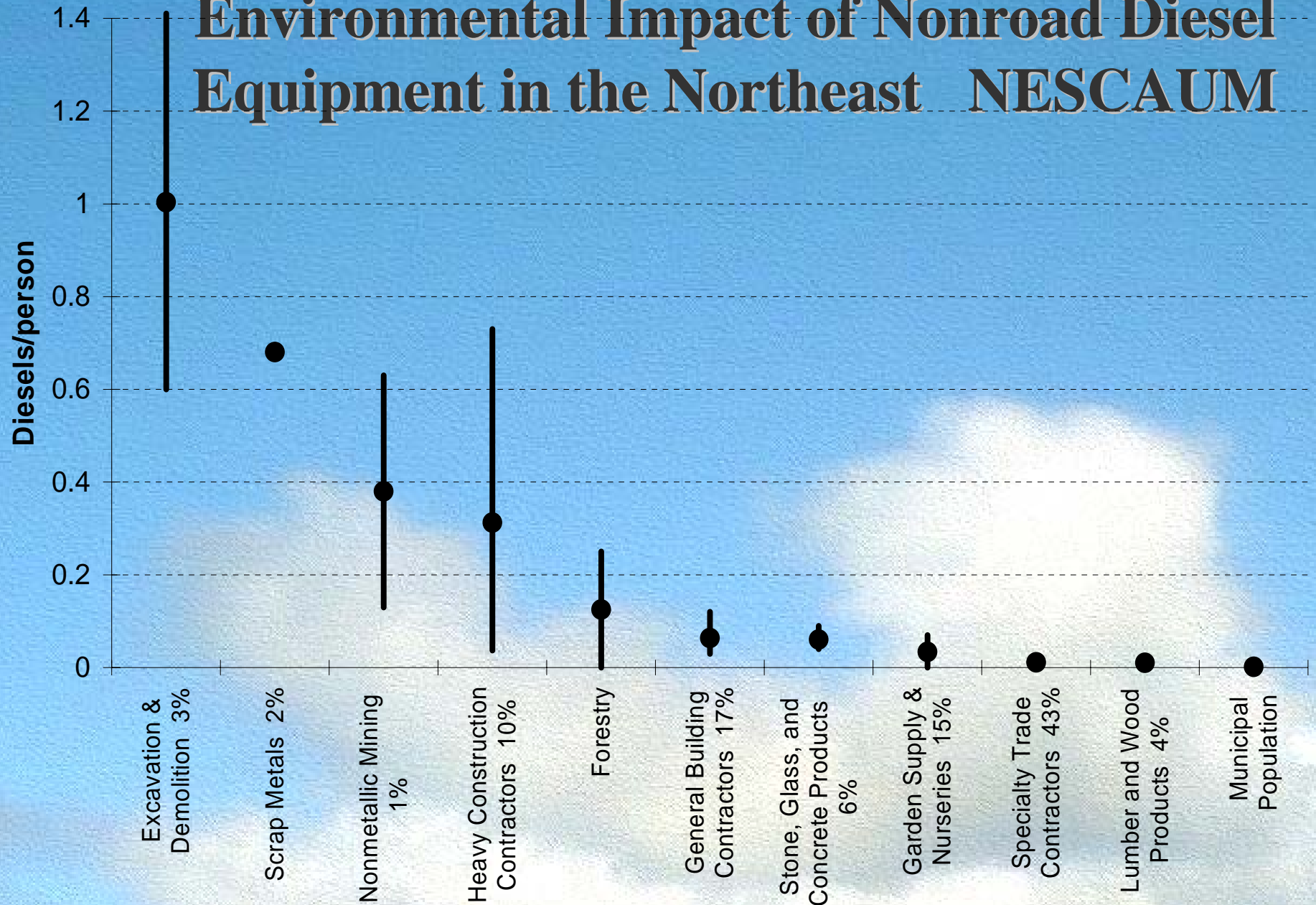


# Diesel Exhaust Particles

- The smaller they are the further they can go into the lungs, and the greater the potential for damaging health
- 95% of DEPs are less than 1  $\mu\text{m}$
- The average size is 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$
- Exposure of construction workers, engine mechanics, truckers, etc. to DEP is an occupational health concern



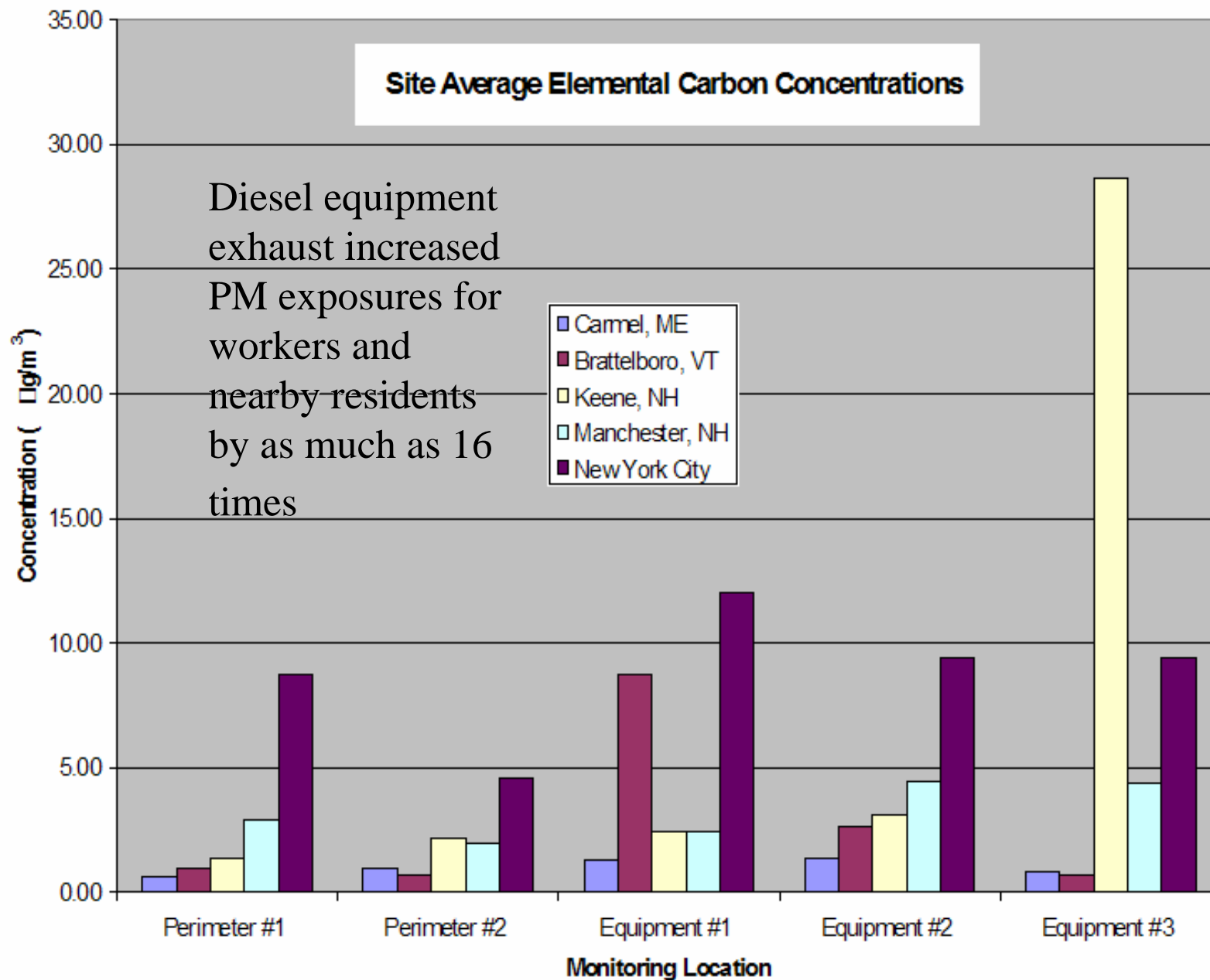
# Evaluating the Occupational and Environmental Impact of Nonroad Diesel Equipment in the Northeast NESCAUM





# NESCAUM

- DEP levels rose and fell with intervals of ~15-20 minutes
- Workers' 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposures could exceed current air quality standards by nearly 2 to 3.5 times – substantially increasing health risk
- DEP was estimated to exist at levels that pose risk of chronic inflammation and lung damage
- Acetaldehyde, benzene, and formaldehyde were as much as 140 times the federally established screening threshold for cancer risk.





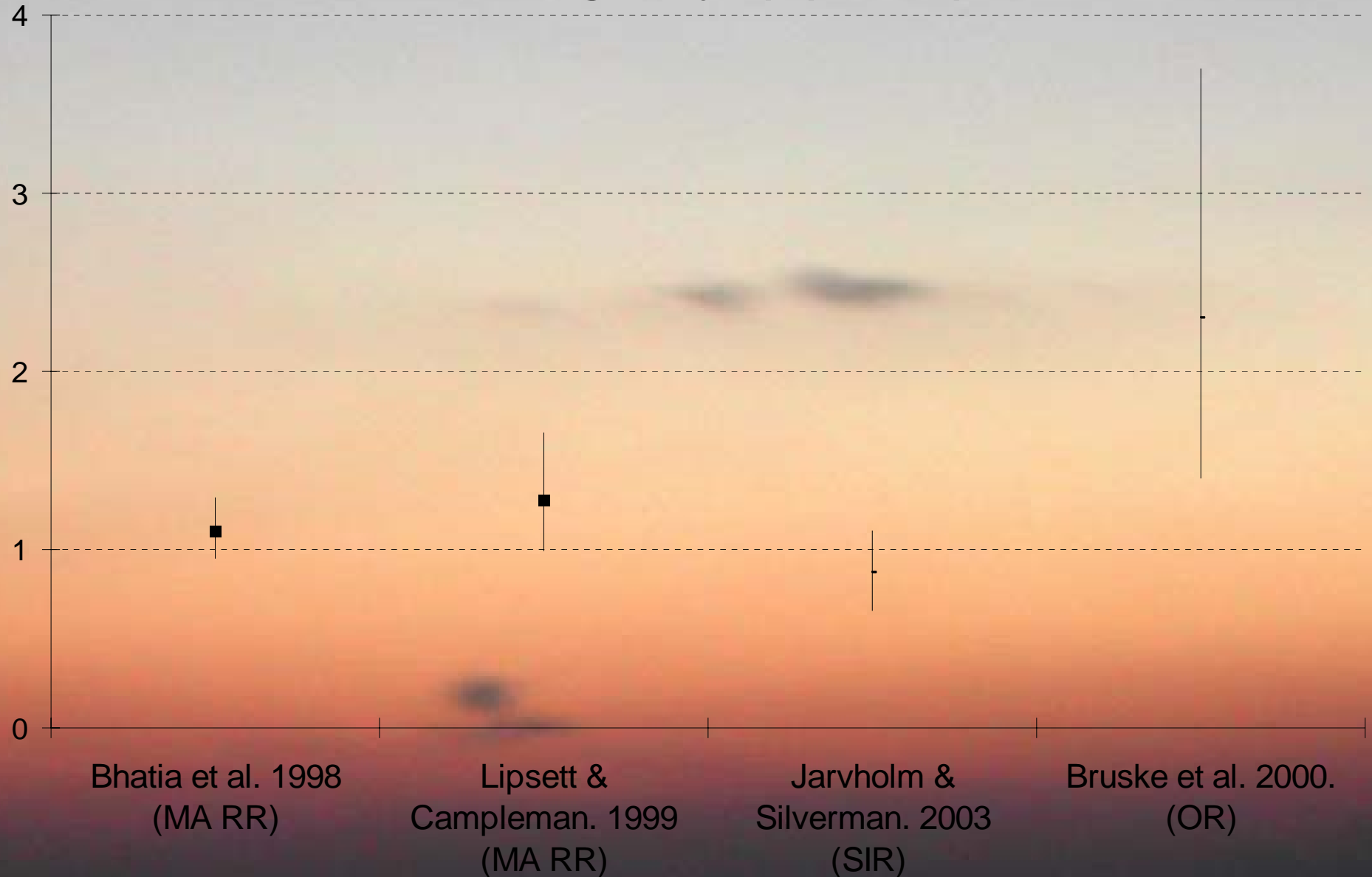
# Bronchitis and Inflammation

- Tunnel workers appear to be at increased risk for chronic bronchitis. Symptomatic workers self-selected out of this trade
- Customs officers occupied with clearing of diesel trucks had chronic inflammation of the nasal mucous membranes

# Asthma

- 20 occupational DE exposure studies reveal a mixed picture of adverse and no asthma effects
- The “healthy worker effect” likely influenced findings
- Stronger associations in susceptible individuals in the general population - including people with asthma, children and elderly - are likely

## Cancer risk among heavy equipment operators



Jarvholm showed that subjects who always worked in a cabin had a lower lung cancer risk than subjects who worked in the open.

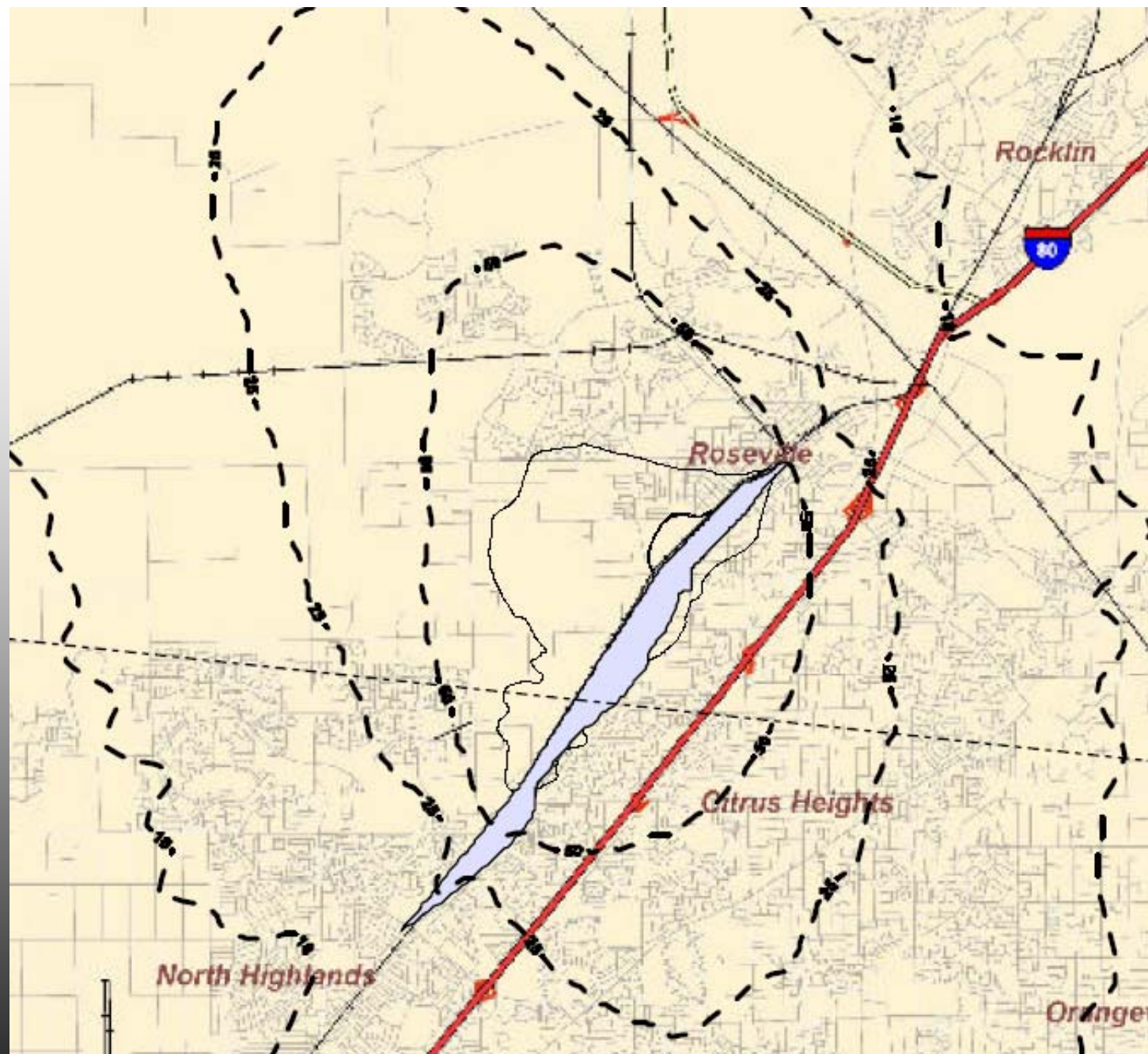




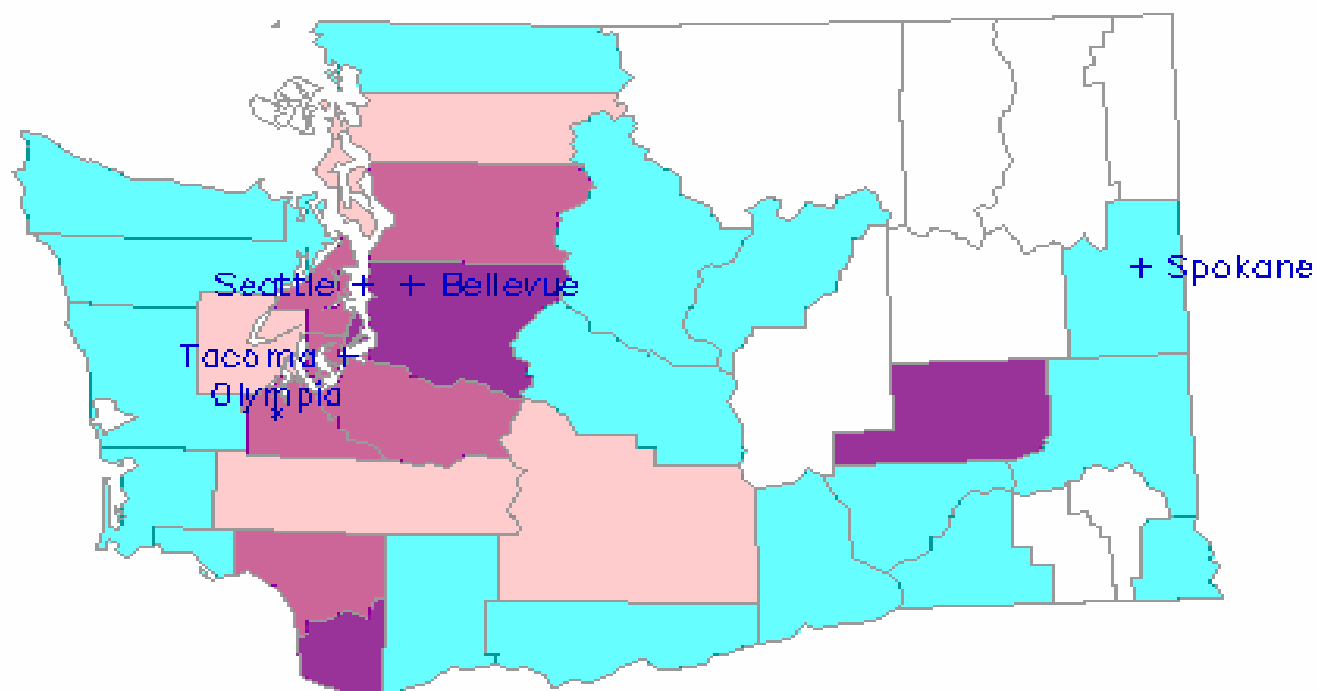
**California Air Resources Board**

**Roseville Rail Yard Study**





# 1996 Estimated County Median Exposure Concentration Diesel Particulate Matter — WASHINGTON Counties



## Distribution of U.S. Inhalation Exposure Concentration

	Highest in U.S.	10.1		
	95	1.35		405
	90	1.04		312
Percentile	75	0.6885		210
	50	0.448		134
	25	0.2685		81
	Lowest in U.S.	0		0
County Median Exposure Concentration (micrograms / cubic meter)				Lifetime chances per million of DPM-related cancer

Cancer unit risk Source: California OEHHA/ARB  
Approved Risk Assessment Health Values

Source: U.S. EPA / QAQPS  
NATA National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment

